

Amendments to the Claims

Amend claims as shown in the following marked version of the amended claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended)

5 A circuit board assembly, which is especially effective for insertion and removal even when fully populated with printed circuit cards, said circuit board assembly comprising:

10 a printed circuit board, having a first side and a second side, and also having an a circuit board edge electrical connector disposed along one edge of said board thereof and further including at least one printed circuit card connector disposed on said first side of said board;

15 a nonconductive base substantially coextensive with said printed circuit board and disposed on said second side of upon which said printed circuit board is mounted; and

20 a stiffener disposed on said first side of said printed circuit board ~~on the side thereof opposite said base~~, said stiffener also being substantially coextensive with said printed circuit board.

Claim 2 (Original)

The circuit board assembly of claim 1 in which said stiffener is metal.

Claim 3 (Original)

25 The circuit board assembly of claim 1 in which said base is a polymeric material.

Claim 4 (Original)

The circuit board assembly of claim 1 in which said printed circuit board further includes electrical connectors disposed thereon for insertion of printed circuit cards, said connectors 5 for insertion of said printed circuit cards extending through apertures in said stiffener.

Claim 5 (Currently amended)

The circuit board assembly of claim 4 further including a plurality of guides having slots therein with said slots being 10 aligned with and disposed adjacent to said printed circuit card connectors, said slots extending substantially parallel to one another and to said printed circuit board, whereby cartridges, which contain said printed cards and which have ridges matching said slots, may be slidably engaged with said printed circuit board.

Claim 6 (Currently amended)

The circuit board assembly of claim 5 in which said guides comprise an integral polymeric structure are affixed to said stiffener.

20 Claim 7 (New)

The circuit board assembly of claim 1 in which said stiffener comprises metal and includes apertures therein for the insertion of a flexible conductive strip.

Claim 8 (New)

The circuit board assembly of claim 7 further including said flexible conductive strip.

Claim 9 (New)

5 The circuit board assembly of claim 1 in which said base includes at least one recessed slot therein so as to accommodate a mechanism for insertion of said board.